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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 H-03 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 CIEP-02 OMB-01

PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 PRS-01

SCEM-02 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /080 W
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R 230417Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4716
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 3604

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, SA
SUBJ: VIEWS OF HIGH-LEVEL SAUDIS AS REPORTED BY MIKE AMEEN

1. ARAMCO'S WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, MIKE AMEEN, HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED SWING THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA, INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH NUMBER OF TOP-LEVEL SAUDIS. TIDBITS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST INCLUDE:

2. DURING AMEEN'S MEETING WITH DR. RASHAD PHARAON LATTER STATED SENATOR HENRY JACKSON HAD ASKED TO SEE KING FAISAL HERE AND KING HAS AGREED TO MEET JACKSON SOMETIME AFTER RAMADAN (OCT. 26).

3. KING GAVE AMEEN USUAL ZIONISM-COMMUNISM TREATMENT, AFTER WHICH AMEEN COMMENTED HE THOUGHT AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GROWING TO UNDERSTAND NATURE OF ENERGY CRISIS BETTER AND THAT THIS INCLUDES SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. KING ALLUDED TO "PRESSURE TACTICS" BEING USED BY ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND COMMENTED HE HOPES TO SEE CHANGE IN US POLICY WITHIN SIX MONTHS. FAISAL HAD APPARENTLY INTERPRETED FULBRIGHT'S SPEECH AS ADVOCATING USE OF MILITARY FORCE TO SECURE OIL PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN GULF. AMEEN THOUGHT HE WAS ABLE TO CLARIFY KING'S

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THINKING ON THAT POINT, INDICATING THAT THAT WAS NOT AT

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ALL FULBRIGHT'S INTENTION.

4. PRINCE FAHD REITERATED STRENGTH OF HIS FRIENDLY FEELINGS FOR US AND JUSTIFIED THESE AS BASED IN SAUDI ARABIA'S OWN NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST. FAHD VOWED THAT AS CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME PETROLEUM COUNCIL HE WAS GOING TO KEEP CONTROL OF OIL POLICY STATEMENTS.

5. YAMANI APPARENTLY DECIDED ENGAGE IN LITTLE SCARE TACTICS AND TOLD AMEEN HE KNEW KING BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF ANY DAY FAISAL CALLS HIM TO INFORM ARAMCO TO LIMIT PRODUCTION TO SEVEN MILLION BARRELS A DAY. APPARENTLY HE MADE SAME REMARK TO JUAN DE ONIS OF NY TIMES. AS IF TO OFFSET FAHD'S CLAIM TO PRIMACY IN OIL AFFAIRS, YAMANI AFFIRMED THAT KING HAS POWER OF FINAL DECISION IN ALL PETROLEUM MATTERS.

6. AMEEN ASSERTED THAT HISHAM NAZER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED BY KING TO AVOID ANY KIND OF PUBLIC COMMENT DURING HIS' TRIP TO US WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED THREATENING. NAZER SEEMED TO AMEEN QUITE CRITICAL OF IDEA OF SPECIAL US ECONOMIC MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN THE DISCUSSION WITH NAZER AND DEP PETROLEUM MINISTER PRINCE SA'UD THEY MENTIONED "USE OF OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON" BUT ADMITTED THIS VERY DELICATE MATTER.

7. COMMENT: MUCH OF FOREGOING RINGS TRUE BUT SHOULD BE ASSESSED ALSO IN LIGHT OF FACT AMEEN APPARENTLY DID SOME RATHER FIRM PRODDING IN HIS EFFORTS GET EXPRESSIONS OF SAUDI VIEWPOINT.
THACHER

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